

Landon Hails Thant's Supp



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ALFRED M. LANDON
... urges China talks

By Sterling Seagrave
Staff Reporter

Former Kansas Gov. Alf Landon, the Republican presidential candidate in 1936, said yesterday he was "very pleased" that United Nations Secretary General U Thant had picked up his call for a disarmament "dialogue" among the world's nuclear powers, Red China included.

The United States has been "too negative" in its attitude toward sitting down with Red China on nuclear disarmament, Landon said, and the time has come for "an affirmative — and a firm — approach."

U.S. officials were not too pleased by Thant's proposal. They said that there are enough present channels for China to use if it is "in good faith" about nuclear disarmament.

The long-standing channel of diplomatic meetings in Warsaw was one possibility mentioned.

Thant's endorsement of the "dialogue," Landon said in a telephone interview from Topeka, Kan., "is just the push the idea needs. We have to meet them half-way."

Proposes Talks in 1965

Thant suggested Thursday that such a "dialogue" take place some time in 1965, and exhibited a clipping of a speech Landon had made Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio, proposing a disarmament summit among the United States, Soviet Union, Britain, France and Communist China.

In the speech, Landon referred to Mao Tze-tung's call for a disarmament summit.

"This proposal," Landon said, "is more of interest and significance than the bomb itself, because of Mao's previous beligerent position—the size of China—her natural resources—the political place it occupies with the non-aligned coun-

He said he completely dis-tries of Asia and Africa." agreed with a statement by Sen. John O. Pastore (D-R.I.) that Mao should not be given the initiative in such a conference.

Puts Discussions First

"Who cares about initiative?" Landon said. "We should be alert to any opening for a realistic discussion..."

"Mao has probably not suddenly changed from his Genghis Khan role to that of a great humanitarian leader — unless it fits his policies... but it could be that he has. China is showing the same internal strain as Russia and other Communist countries in the failure of the Marxian principles to work.

"Mao's proposal would relieve China of the financial burden and staggering cost of building real nuclear power and the effective means of

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delivering it. It would also be the best way of getting into the world markets China needs, and laying the ground for mending Mao's relations with other peoples and governments he badly needs..."

"There is no doubt in my mind," Landon said, "of the intrinsic value of Mao's proposal... If Mao's proposal

is simply a change in tactics, the quicker that is known, the better it will be for all the peoples of the world."